Rock Lake
Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan Update

February 7, 2006

Prepared for:
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INTRODUCTION

This report was created in order to update the Rock Lake Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan. The update will serve as a tool to track changes in the vegetation community, to adjust the action plan as needed, and to maintain eligibility for additional LARE funds. Items covered include the 2005 sampling results, a review of the 2005 vegetation controls, and updates to the budget and action plans. The plan update was funded by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Lake and River Enhancement Program (LARE) and the Rock Lake Conservation Association. Once reviewed and approved, the update should be placed in the 2005 Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan binder, following the reference section and prior to the appendix.

2005 SAMPLING RESULTS

Two surveys were completed on Rock Lake in 2005. A tier I and II survey were completed in May. These surveys allowed for the determination of control areas and documentation of changes within the emergent and rooted-floating plant community. A second tier II survey was completed in August in order to document success or failure of the control techniques and to compare 2005 results to the 2004 survey (the 2004 tier II survey was completed during the same month as the second 2005 tier II survey).

Tier I Survey

On May 16, 2005, a Tier I survey was completed on Rock Lake. The Tier I survey revealed three distinct plant beds totaling 20.86 acres (Table 1 & Figure 1). Six different species were observed.

Table 1. Rock Lake Tier I Survey Results, May 16, 2005

Plant Bed I.D.	#1	#2	#3
Plant Bed Size (acres)	2.84	15.02	3.0
	Rating*	Rating*	Rating*
White Water lily	2	2	2
Eurasian Watermilfoil	2	-	1
Sago Pondweed	1	-	1
Coontail	1	-	1
Spatterdock	-	3	-
Largeleaf pondweed	-	-	1

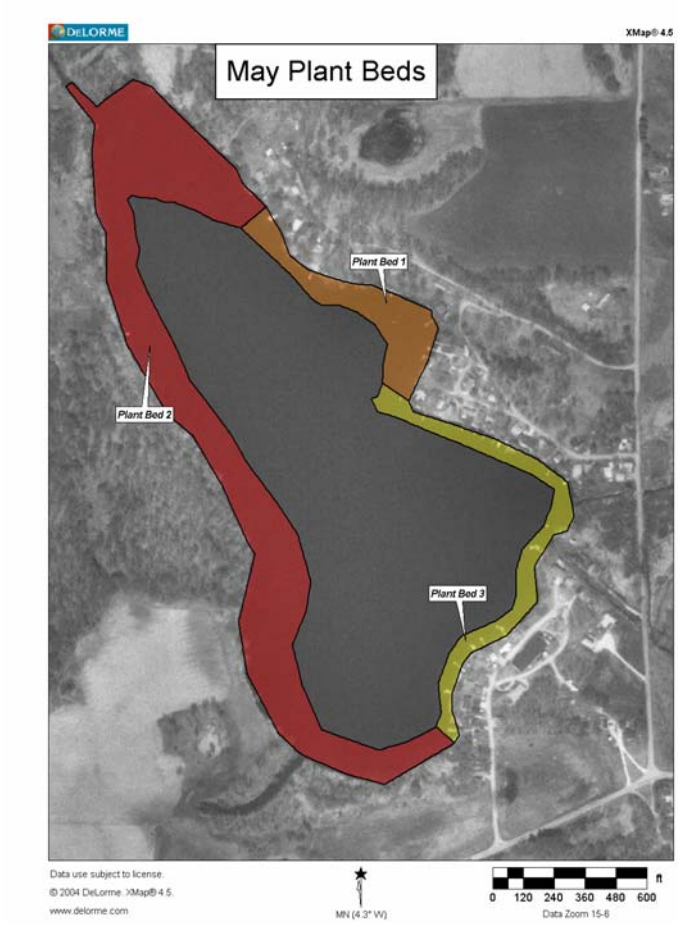

Figure 1. Tier I Plant Beds, Rock Lake, May 16, 2005

Plant bed 1 was located along the shoreline of the east-central portion of Rock Lake (Figure 1). It was determined to be 2.84 acres in size. The substrate of plant bed 1 was sand with silt. A total of four species were observed within the plant bed. Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), and white water lily (*Nymphaea tuberose*) were the dominant plant species. Coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*), and sago pondweed (*Potamogeton pectinatus*) were present at the lowest abundance rating (less than 2%). This plant bed contained the highest density of Eurasian watermilfoil and was a primary control area.

Plant bed 2 was located along the entire western shoreline, including the southern most, and northern most shorelines of Rock Lake (Figure 1). This plant bed was determined to be 15.02 acre and the substrate was sand with silt. Spatterdock (*Nuphar variegetum*), and white water lily were the only species present. The only control that will be needed in this area is the creation and/or maintenance of boating lanes. This plant bed likely provides good cover for fish and wildlife.

Plant bed 3 was located on the eastern shoreline, just south of plant bed 1 (Figure 1). This plant bed was determined to be 3.0 acres. The substrate of plant bed 3 was gravel/rock. A total of five plant species were observed in plant bed 3. White water lily was the most

abundant species. Eurasian watermilfoil, sago pondweed, coontail and largeleaf pondweed (*Potamogeton amplifolius*) were also observed. Some areas of milfoil were targeted for control within this plant bed.

Tier II Survey Results

Two tier II surveys were completed in order to document changes in the plant community. Surveys were completed on May 16 and August 8, 2005.

May Tier II Survey

Tier II sampling took place on May 16, 2005 immediately following the Tier I sampling. A Secchi disk reading was taken prior to sampling, and was found to be 2.0 feet. Plants were present to a maximum depth of 5 feet. Forty sites were randomly selected within the littoral zone. Results of the sampling are listed in Table 2. The bottom half of Table 2 illustrates the frequency of occurrence, relative density, mean density, and dominance index of individual species collected from Rock Lake.

Table 2. Rock Lake Tier II Survey Results, May 16, 2005.

Date:	5/16/05		Littoral sites with plants:	3		Species diversity:	
Littoral depth (ft):	5		Number of species:	2		Native diversity:	
Littoral sites:	29		Maximum species/site:	1		Rake diversity:	
Total sites:	40		Mean number species/site:	0.08		Native rake diversity:	
Secchi:	2		Mean native species/site:	0.05		Mean rake score:	1.00

Common Name	Site frequency	Relative density	Mean density	Dominance
Coontail	6.9	0.07	1.00	1.4
Eurasian watermilfoil	3.4	0.03	1.00	0.7

Observed species: Sago pondweed, spatterdock, white water lily, and largeleaf pondweed

Only two species, Eurasian watermilfoil and coontail, were collected (water lily and spatterdock were present on several rake tosses, but are not included in tier II sampling). Location and density of Coontail is illustrated in Figure 2 (in species location and density figures, plant location is illustrated by a color coded dot, the color of the dot represents the density of the species, and sample sites without that species are illustrated by smaller white diamond). Eurasian watermilfoil was the only exotic species collected (Figure 3). Sago pondweed, spatterdock, white water lily, and largeleaf pondweed were observed during the survey but not collected in rake tosses.

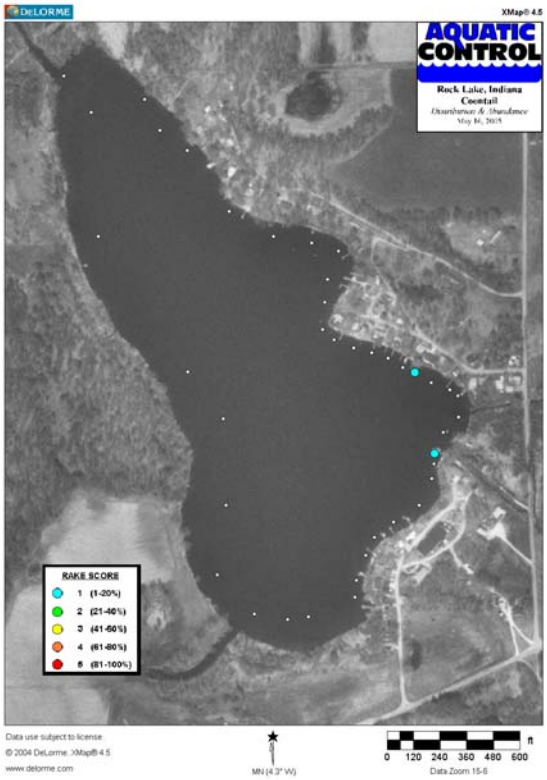

Figure 2. Location and density of coontail, Rock Lake, May 16, 2005.

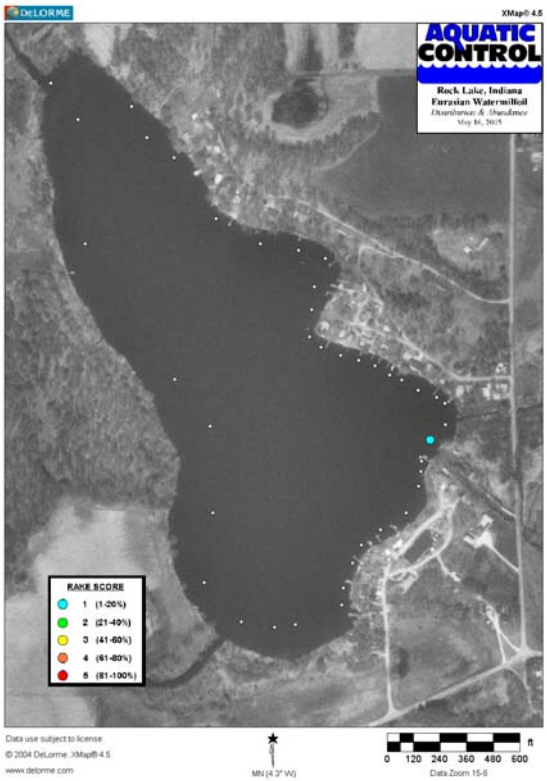

Figure 3. Location and density of Eurasian watermilfoil, Rock Lake, May 16, 2005

August Tier II Survey

The second round of Tier II sampling took place on August 8, 2005. A Secchi disk reading was taken prior to sampling and was found to be 2.5 feet. Plants were present to a maximum of 5 feet. The same 40 sites were sampled in August as were in May. Results of the sampling are listed in Table 3.

Table 3. Rock Lake Tier II Survey Results, August 8, 2005.

Date:	8/8/2005		Littoral sites with plants:	7		Species diversity:	-
Littoral depth (ft):	5		Number of species:	2		Native diversity:	-
Littoral sites:	33		Maximum species/site:	2		Rake diversity:	-
Total sites:	40		Mean number species/site:	0.20		Native rake diversity:	-
Secchi:	2.5		Mean native species/site:	0.20		Mean rake score:	1.86

Common Name	Site frequency	Relative density	Mean density	Dominance
Sago pondweed	15.2	0.18	1.20	3.6
Coontail	9.1	0.21	2.33	4.2

Observed Species: largeleaf pondweed, white water lily, and spatterdock

Once again, only two species were collected, both of which were native. There was no Eurasian watermilfoil collected in this sampling. Sago pondweed ranked first in frequency of occurrence (12.5%) and relative density. Location and density of sago pondweed is illustrated in Figure 4. Coontail was collected at three sites (Figure 5). Largeleaf pondweed, white water lily, and spatterdock were observed but not collected.

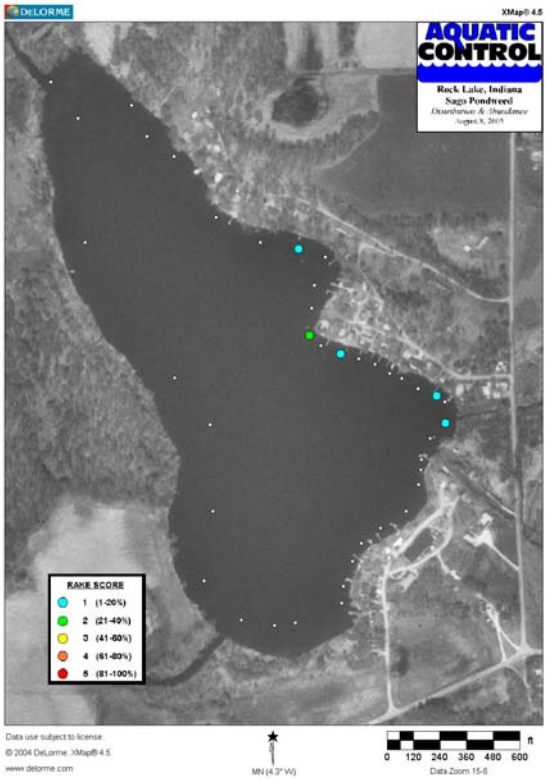

Figure 4. Location and density of sago pondweed, Rock Lake, August 8, 2005.

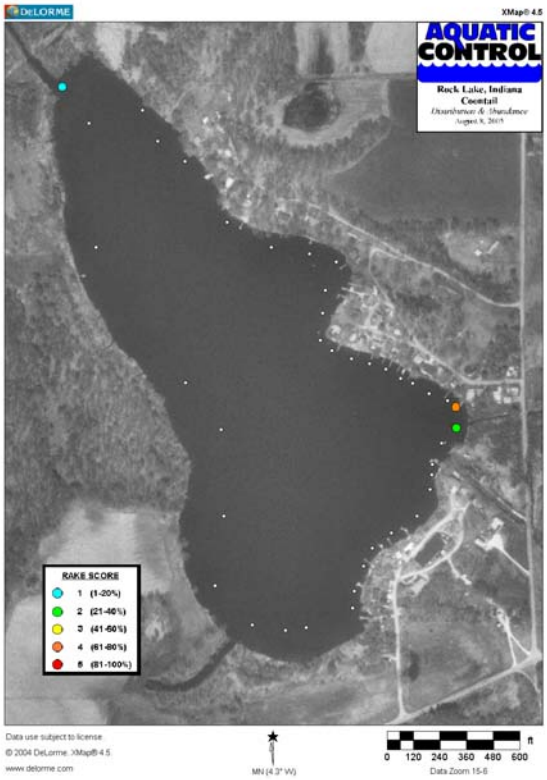

Figure 5. Location and density of coontail, Rock Lake, August 8, 2005.

Aquatic Vegetation Sampling Discussion

One of the main goals of the aquatic vegetation management plan is to control the negative impacts of aquatic invasive species. It appears that this goal was met in the 2005 season. Eurasian watermilfoil is the primary invasive species in Rock Lake and was targeted for control in 2005. In the 2004 tier II survey milfoil was found at 27.5% of sample sites and had a relative density of 0.28 (Figure 6). Milfoil was not present at any sample sites in the August tier II survey (Figure 7 & 8). However, milfoil was also sparse during May surveys, so this reduction may not be entirely due to control techniques.

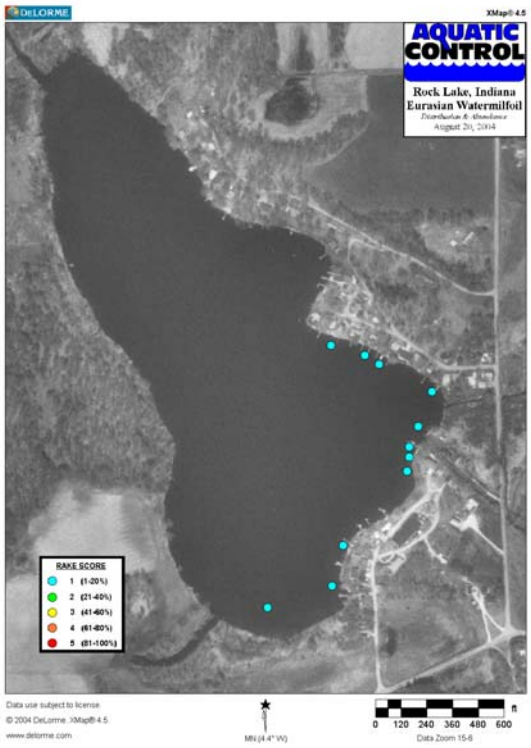

Figure 6. Location and density of Eurasian watermilfoil, Rock Lake, August 20, 2004.

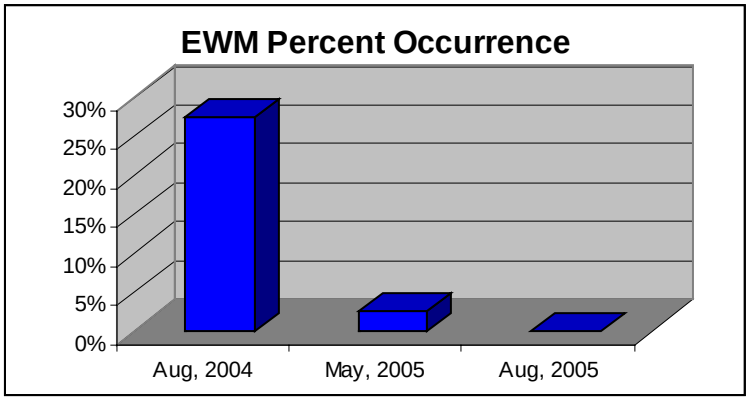

Figure 7. Rock Lake, comparison of Eurasian watermilfoil frequency of occurrence in the last three surveys.

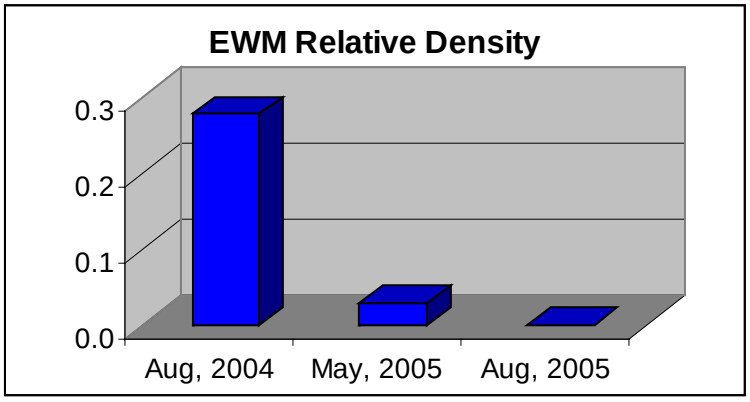

Figure 8. Rock Lake, comparison of Eurasian watermilfoil relative abundance in the last three surveys.

Another goal of the vegetation management plan is to maintain a stable diverse aquatic plant community. There is a large amount of rooted floating vegetation extending over 100 feet into the lake along the western shoreline. However, there appears to be a lack of submersed native vegetation and this has changed little in the last two seasons. The same two submersed native species were collected in 2004 and at similar abundance. One of the main factors hampering development of a more diverse submersed plant community is poor water quality. Rock Lake had very low Secchi readings in 2005 (2.0 and 2.5 feet). This limits plant growth to relatively shallow shoreline areas. Much of the shoreline of Rock Lake offers marginal substrate for plant growth. Despite these restrictions, largeleaf pondweed was documented growing near the southern shoreline. This species is excellent for fish cover and rarely reaches nuisance levels. We would like to see this species expand into the areas that traditionally contained Eurasian watermilfoil monocultures. However, if the water quality is not improved in these lakes, a diverse submersed native population may never return.

2005 VEGETATION CONTROL

The main control recommended in the action plan was treatment of Eurasian watermilfoil wherever it occurred. It was theorized that 12.5 acres may need treated in 2005, but following May sampling it was determined that only 9.0 acres would require treatment (Figure 6). Treatment was completed on May 31, 2005 with Renovate herbicide. No milfoil was found in the lake in the August survey.

Figure 9. Rock Lake treatment areas, May 31, 2005.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A public meeting was held in on January 17 in downtown Akron, Indiana at Sloan's restaurant. The meeting was organized as a tool for obtaining lake use information, updating the public on vegetation management activities, and as a way to help plan for future plant management activities. Six individuals attended the meeting of which all had homes on Rock Lake and were members of the Rock Lake Conservation Association. A lake use survey was handed out and five were turned in. All the individuals present were satisfied with the 2005 vegetation control activities. All individuals used the lake for swimming, boating, and fishing. All individuals indicated that they were in favor of continuing efforts to control vegetation in the lake. There was also concern over the lack of recent fish survey data. Most of the individuals agreed that fishing has improved since the Eurasian watermilfoil was reduced, but they would like to see exactly how the fish population has changed since the more aggressive milfoil control has been initiated (no surveys have been completed since 1997). The Conservation Association has contacted private contractors in an effort to obtain bids for completion of a fish survey.

ACTION PLAN AND BUDGET UPDATE

The 2005 treatment effectively controlled Eurasian watermilfoil. No new growth within the treated area or outside the treatment area was detected in the August sampling. However, it is unlikely that there will be no growth next season due to the presence of this species upstream. It will be important to treat any milfoil that appears following May sampling. It is impossible to predict the exact amount that will require treatment, but it

should be less than 8.0 acres. It is also difficult to predict exactly where the milfoil will occur. Treatment areas will be determined after the spring sampling, which should be completed in a similar manner as 2005. The sampling data will also be valuable in tracking control of targeted species and monitoring changes in native populations. The budget does not require updating at this time (Table 4). The Rock Lake Conservation Association should request $4,570 for treatment and sampling in 2006.

Table 4. Budget estimates for management options

	2005	2006	2007
Herbicide & Application Cost*	$5,000	$3,500	$2,000
Vegetation Sampling & Plan Update	$1,070	$1,070	$1,070
Total:	**$6,070**	**$4,570**	**$3,070**

*Cost is figured on treating 8.0 acres of Eurasian watermilfoil in 2006. This is theoretical and based on past visual inspections. Actual acreage to be determined following spring survey.

In addition to herbicide applications it is important that residents use appropriate best management practices on their lakefront properties. These practices have been discussed at the public meetings and include using only phosphorus free fertilizers, allowing natural buffers to grow on the lake margins, and limiting the amount of yard waste entering the lake. Adoption of these practices may help reduce phosphorus loading and improve wildlife habitat. Reduction in phosphorus loading may help increase water clarity that could facilitate native plant recovery.

PLANT SAMPLING DATA
May Tier II

Lake	Date	Latitude	Longitude	Site	Depth	RAKE	MYSP2	CEDE4	SpeNum	NatSpeNum	Species Codes	
Rock	5/16/05	41.03941	-85.97735	163	5.0				0	0	BIBE	Bur marigold
Rock	5/16/05	41.03962	-85.97732	164	7.0				0	0	CEDE4	Coontail
Rock	5/16/05	41.03993	-85.97717	165	7.0				0	0	CH?AR	Chara
Rock	5/16/05	41.04016	-85.97702	166	7.0				0	0	ELCA7	Elodea
Rock	5/16/05	41.04034	-85.97672	167	1.0				0	0	LEMN	Duckweeds
Rock	5/16/05	41.04055	-85.9763	168	5.0				0	0	MYHE	Broadleaf watermilfoil
Rock	5/16/05	41.04088	-85.97609	169	2.0				0	0	MYSI	Northern watermilfoil
Rock	5/16/05	41.04106	-85.97605	170	2.0				0	0	MYSP2	Eurasian watermilfoil
Rock	5/16/05	41.04119	-85.97605	171	3.0	1		1	1	1	MYVE	Whorled watermilfoil
Rock	5/16/05	41.04145	-85.9759	172	3.0	1	1		1	0	NAFL	Slender naiad
Rock	5/16/05	41.04164	-85.97566	173	2.0				0	0	NAGU	Southern waternymph
Rock	5/16/05	41.0419	-85.97567	174	3.0				0	0	NAMA	Spiny naiad
Rock	5/16/05	41.04197	-85.9758	175	1.0				0	0	NAMI	Brittle waternymph
Rock	5/16/05	41.04206	-85.9761	176	2.0				0	0	NELU	American lotus
Rock	5/16/05	41.04218	-85.97637	177	3.0	1		1	1	1	NI?TE	Nitella
Rock	5/16/05	41.04225	-85.97656	178	3.0				0	0	NOAQVG	No aquatic vegetation
Rock	5/16/05	41.04236	-85.9768	179	5.0				0	0	NULU	Yellow pond lily
Rock	5/16/05	41.04243	-85.97707	180	4.0				0	0	NYTU	White water lily
Rock	5/16/05	41.04249	-85.97737	181	5.0				0	0	POAM	Large-leaf pondweed
Rock	5/16/05	41.04259	-85.97769	182	6.0				0	0	POCR3	Curly-leaf pondweed
Rock	5/16/05	41.04271	-85.97787	183	3.0				0	0	POFO3	Leafy pondweed
Rock	5/16/05	41.04305	-85.97783	184	4.0				0	0	POGR8	Variable pondweed
Rock	5/16/05	41.04333	-85.97779	185	4.0				0	0	POIL	Illinois pondweed
Rock	5/16/05	41.04368	-85.97761	186	4.0				0	0	PONO2	American pondweed
Rock	5/16/05	41.04378	-85.97805	187	3.0				0	0	POPE6	Sago pondweed
Rock	5/16/05	41.04387	-85.97868	188	6.0				0	0	POPR5	White-stemmed pondweed
Rock	5/16/05	41.04417	-85.9794	189	4.0				0	0	POPU7	Small pondweed
Rock	5/16/05	41.04492	-85.98008	190	5.0				0	0	PORI2	Richardson's pondweed
Rock	5/16/05	41.04517	-85.98053	191	5.0				0	0	POZO	Flat-stemmed pondweed
Rock	5/16/05	41.04556	-85.98078	192	5.0				0	0	UTMA	Common bladderwort
Rock	5/16/05	41.04585	-85.98209	193	6.0				0	0	VAAM3	Wild celery, eel grass
Rock	5/16/05	41.04539	-85.98165	194	5.0				0	0	WO?LF	Watermeal
Rock	5/16/05	41.04386	-85.98153	195	6.0				0	0	ZAPA	Horned pondweed
Rock	5/16/05	41.04219	-85.98007	196	6.0				0	0	ZODU	Water stargrass
Rock	5/16/05	41.04162	-85.97949	197	5.0				0	0		
Rock	5/16/05	41.04055	-85.97945	198	6.0				0	0	Count	34
Rock	5/16/05	41.03969	-85.97959	199	5.0				0	0		
Rock	5/16/05	41.03921	-85.97898	200	6.0				0	0		
Rock	5/16/05	41.03914	-85.97844	201	6.0				0	0		
Rock	5/16/05	41.03917	-85.9781	202	8.0				0	0		

August Tier II Data

Lake	Date	Latitude	Longitude	Site	Depth	RAKE	CEDE4	POPE6	SpeNum	NatSpeNum	Species Codes	
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.03941	-85.97735	1	5.0				0	0	BIBE	Bur marigold
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.03962	-85.97732	2	6.0				0	0	CEDE4	Coontail
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.03993	-85.97717	3	6.0				0	0	CH?AR	Chara
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04016	-85.97702	4	7.0				0	0	ELCA7	Elodea
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04034	-85.97672	5	11.0				0	0	LEMN	Duckweeds
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04055	-85.9763	6	8.0				0	0	MYHE	Broadleaf watermilfoil
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04088	-85.97609	7	3.0				0	0	MYSI	Northern watermilfoil
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04106	-85.97605	8	1.0				0	0	MYSP2	Eurasian watermilfoil
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04119	-85.97605	9	2.0				0	0	MYVE	Whorled watermilfoil
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04145	-85.9759	10	3.0				0	0	NAFL	Slender naiad
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04164	-85.97566	11	3.0	3	2	1	2	2	NAGU	Southern waternymph
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.0419	-85.97567	12	2.0	5	5		1	1	NAMA	Spiny naiad
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04197	-85.9758	13	4.0	1		1	1	1	NAMI	Brittle waternymph
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04206	-85.9761	14	5.0				0	0	NELU	American lotus
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04218	-85.97637	15	4.0				0	0	NI?TE	Nitella
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04225	-85.97656	16	5.0				0	0	NOAQVG	No aquatic vegetation
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04236	-85.9768	17	4.0				0	0	NULU	Yellow pond lily
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04243	-85.97707	18	4.0				0	0	NYTU	White water lily
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04249	-85.97737	19	4.0	1		1	1	1	POAM	Large-leaf pondweed
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04259	-85.97769	20	4.0				0	0	POCR3	Curly-leaf pondweed
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04271	-85.97787	21	2.0	2		2	1	1	POFO3	Leafy pondweed
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04305	-85.97783	22	2.0				0	0	POGR8	Variable pondweed
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04333	-85.97779	23	4.0				0	0	POIL	Illinois pondweed
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04368	-85.97761	24	3.0				0	0	PONO2	American pondweed
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04378	-85.97805	25	3.0	1		1	1	1	POPE6	Sago pondweed
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04387	-85.97868	26	5.0				0	0	POPR5	White-stemmed pondweed
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04417	-85.9794	27	2.0				0	0	POPU7	Small pondweed
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04492	-85.98008	28	4.0				0	0	PORI2	Richardson's pondweed
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04517	-85.98053	29	4.0				0	0	POZO	Flat-stemmed pondweed
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04556	-85.98078	30	2.0				0	0	UTMA	Common bladderwort
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04585	-85.98209	31	2.0	1	1		1	1	VAAM3	Wild celery, eel grass
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04539	-85.98165	32	4.0				0	0	WO?LF	Watermeal
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04386	-85.98153	33	4.0				0	0	ZAPA	Horned pondweed
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04219	-85.98007	34	5.0				0	0	ZODU	Water stargrass
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04162	-85.97949	35	6.0				0	0		
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.04055	-85.97945	36	5.0				0	0	Count	34
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.03969	-85.97959	37	6.0				0	0		
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.03921	-85.97898	38	5.0				0	0		
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.03914	-85.97844	39	4.0				0	0		
Rock Lake	8/8/05	41.03917	-85.9781	40	4.0				0	0		

PERMIT APPLICATION

APPLICATION FOR AQUATIC VEGETATION CONTROL PERMIT
State Form 26727 (R / 11-03)
Approved State Board of Accounts 1987
☐ Whole Lake ☒ Multiple Treatment Areas
Check type of permit

INSTRUCTIONS: Please print or type information

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
License No.
Date Issued
Lake County

Return to: Page 1 of 2
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Commercial License Clerk
402 West Washington Street, Room W273
Indianapolis, IN 46204

FEE: $5.00

Applicant's Name	Lake Assoc. Name	
Rock Lake Conservation Club	Rock lake Conservation Club	
Rural Route or Street		Phone Number
3701 Ironwood Way		812-497-2410
City and State		ZIP Code
Anderson, IN		26011
Certified Applicator (if applicable)	Company or Inc. Name	Certification Number
Rural Route or Street		Phone Number
City and State		ZIP Code

Lake (One application per lake)	Nearest Town	County
Rock Lake	Akron	Kosciusko-Fulton
Does water flow into a water supply		☐ Yes ☒ No

Please complete one section for *EACH* treatment area. Attach lake map showing treatment area and denote location of any water supply intake.

Treatment Area #	1	LAT/LONG or UTM's	Treat Eurasian watermilfoil where it occurs (not more than 8.0 acres)
Total acres to be controlled	8	Proposed shoreline treatment length (ft)	Perpendicular distance from shoreline (ft)
Maximum Depth of Treatment (ft)	6	Expected date(s) of treatment(s)	Late May or early June following plant survey

Treatment method: ☒ Chemical ☐ Physical ☐ Biological Control ☐ Mechanical

Based on treatment method, describe chemical used, method of physical or mechanical control and disposal area, or the species and stocking rate for biological control. Renovate herbicide will be applied for the selective control of Eurasian watermilfoil (see AVMP)

Plant survey method: ☒ Rake ☒ Visual ☐ Other (specify) Treatment areas will be defined following spring survey

Aquatic Plant Name	Check if Target Species	Relative Abundance % of Community
White Waterlilly		50
Eurasian watermilfoil	X	5
Sago pondweed		10
Coontail		25
Spatterdock		10

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Treatment Area #	LAT/LONG or UTM's	
Total acres to be controlled	Proposed shoreline treatment length (ft)	Perpendicular distance from shoreline (ft)
Maximum Depth of Treatment (ft)	Expected date(s) of treatment(s)	

Treatment method: ☐ Chemical ☐ Physical ☐ Biological Control ☐ Mechanical

Based on treatment method, describe chemical used, method of physical or mechanical control and disposal area, or the species and stocking rate for biological control. _____

Plant survey method: ☐ Rake ☐ Visual ☐ Other (specify) _____

Aquatic Plant Name	Check if Target Species	Relative Abundance % of Community

INSTRUCTIONS: Whoever treats the lake fills in "Applicant's Signature" unless they are a professional. If they are a professional company who specializes in lake treatment, they should sign on the "Certified Applicant" line.

Applicant Signature	Date
Certified Applicant's Signature	Date

FOR OFFICE ONLY

☐ Approved ☐ Disapproved	Fisheries Staff Specialist
☐ Approved ☐ Disapproved	Environmental Staff Specialist

Mail check or money order in the amount of $5.00 to:

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
COMMERCIAL LICENSE CLERK
402 WEST WASHINGTON STREET ROOM W273
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204